

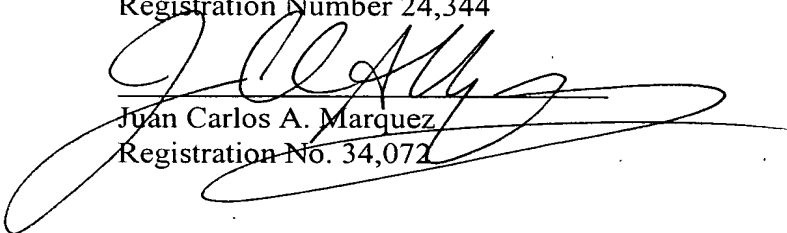
**REMARKS**

Applicant has amended claim 13 and added claims 16 and 17, amended claim 14 and added claim 18, and amended claim 15 and added claims 19 and 20. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of these amendments.

In view of the above amendments and Applicant's comments stated herein, Applicant respectfully requests an early and favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stanley P. Fisher  
Registration Number 24,344

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Juan Carlos A. Marquez  
Registration No. 34,072

**REED SMITH LLP**  
3110 Fairview Park Drive  
Suite 1400  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042  
(703) 641-4200

**December 17, 2003**